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SC No. 04490/65

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director, Current Intelligence
THROUGH : Chief, Sino-Soviet Bloc Area
FROM : Chief, China and Asian Satellites Division
SUBJECT : Preliminary Evaluation of Mission C285C,
flown on 14 May 1965

1. This mission covered parts of Hainan Island, North Vietnam, and South China including sections of the rail line running from the Chinese border to Hanoi and the rail yards on both sides of the border including the important Ningming complex. No evidence of military shipments was reported. No new missile sites or missile equipment was noted. Over-all cloud cover was about 40-percent.

2. Two MIG-21s from Nanning were noted in reaction to the mission aircraft. One of these flew to within about 30 nautical miles of Hanoi to meet the U-2 as it headed toward the Chinese border. Although there are indications that the Communist pilot may have sighted the U-2 while at a reported altitude of 69,874 feet there is no evidence of an attack.

3. The primary purpose of this mission was to obtain photographic evidence of military rail shipments from Communist China into North Vietnam. The important rail yards at Ningming where the transshipment of goods from the Chinese standard gauge rail line to the North Vietnamese meter-gauge rail line occurs was covered. However, no rolling stock was reported. The Dong Dang rail yard in North Vietnam was also photographed and although some rolling stock was noted, nothing of significance was reported.

4. The new airfield under construction in the Ningming area was photographed and now appears to be about 60-percent complete. Poor quality of photography and haze preclude an interpretation of the surfacing status. About 55 earth-movers and about 90 trucks were observed. There are also about 125 barracks and 62 other buildings which appear to be warehouses.

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5. Haikou Airfield on Hainan Island was covered. The field read-out reported 3 MIG-15/17 aircraft, 31 dummy MIG 15/17 aircraft, and one probable dummy MIG-21 in addition to three small AN-2 (COLT) transports. We have reservations about the identification of these aircraft as dummies since there has always been a regiment of jet fighters located there. Sanya Airfield on Hainan Island was also photographed but no aircraft were in evidence. Sanya has not been used as a tactical base but it has been undergoing improvement. The other principal airfield on Hainan Island at which there are jet fighters--Lingshui--apparently was not covered. The newly discovered airfield at Linkao which is under construction was also apparently not covered.

6. A number of other military installations in Communist China and North Vietnam including barracks areas, supply depots, and naval bases were covered but nothing of significance was reported.

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Prepared by: [REDACTED]

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Approved For Release 2003/01/24 : CIA-RDP66B00597R000300030076-7

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